

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PATHFINDER



College and University Resources

Choosing a college or university can be a daunting task. To help you, the [San Diego Public Library](#) offers a wide variety of free resources that cover choosing a school, applying for admission, and paying your tuition (or possibly avoiding tuition altogether).

At the Central Library, most of the materials on colleges and universities will be concentrated in the Social Sciences section (located on the Third Floor), although a number of SAT preparation test books can be found in the Teen Collection. At your local Branch Library, try browsing through the 378s, both in the Reference area and in the regular non-fiction stacks. Many branches have special areas for local college and university catalogs, schedules of classes, and brochures, so be sure to ask your librarian if you don't find them right away.

The Catalog

Computer terminals located throughout Central Library and in each Branch Library provide access to the [online catalog](#), which will help you find specific books and other materials in the library's collection. Enter a subject or keyword and then click on the corresponding icon. Some suggested search terms are as follows:

- Universities and colleges—admission
- College applications
- Universities and colleges—entrance requirements
- Student aid
- Scholarships
- Distance education
- Correspondence schools and courses
- Community colleges
- Private Universities and Colleges
- Minorities—scholarships

eDesk Resources

The eDesk is your gateway to the print and electronic holdings of the San Diego Public Library. Public access terminals at the branches and Central Library are set to eDesk, but you can access eDesk from home by going to <http://sdplweb.sannet.gov/>. Be sure to have your Library Crd number handy.

- [CollegeSource](#). Also found under "Education, Career, & Law", CollegeSource gives you access to the catalogs of 22,504 colleges and universities worldwide. Additionally, CollegeSource includes links to widely used online resources such as the Common Application (see below) and the U.S. Department of Education.
- [Learn-a-Test](#). With a valid Library Card, you can set up an account and take practice versions of the SAT, CUNY, and ACT exams. Get instant score results and answer explanations. Find Learn-a-Test by clicking on "Education, Career, & Law" from eDesk.

The Internet

The Internet can be a great time-saver when it comes to researching colleges and universities, but, due to its unregulated nature, it can also be a source of misinformation. The **Librarians' Index to the Internet** (<http://lii.org/>) is a reliable place to search for college information; all sites indexed by LII have been approved by professional librarians. Some sites of interest:

CaliforniaColleges.edu <http://www.californiacolleges.edu/>

"This combined effort by California colleges and universities and the state Department of Education provides information about higher education opportunities in California. In addition to information about specific public and private schools, career planning, and financial aid, users will also find the school codes used for the SAT, ACT, and FAFSA. They can also set up personal accounts to store information."—LII

College Board <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

Each year, the College Board serves over three million students and their parents, 22,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Register online for the SAT here.

Common Application <http://www.commonapp.org/>

The Common Application is the recommended form of 230 selective colleges and universities for admission to their undergraduate programs. All give equal consideration to the Common Application and the college's own form.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Also available at the Social Sciences Reference Desk.

HBCU Mentor: Guide to Historically Black Colleges and Universities <http://www.hbcumentor.org/>

"An online resource to help students and their families select a college, apply for admission, and plan to finance higher education. The *Select a College* section provides information on the traditionally African-American institutions of higher education...There is also information on financial aid, self-assessment tools that help you choose a career path, and online application forms."—LII

Education (usnews.com)

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm>

"This excellent site from *U.S. News & World Report* features four sections designed to help users choose a college or graduate school and a career - including college rankings, graduate school rankings, financial aid with best values rankings, and guides to careers, internships, and jobs."—LII



Print Resources

School Directories

[The Best 345 Colleges](#). 2003.

R 378.73/Best

[California Colleges and Universities](#). 2002.

R 378.794/California

[College Board College Handbook](#). 2002.

R 378.1057/College

[The Fiske Guide to Colleges](#). 2003.

R 378.73/Fiske

[K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities](#). 2001.

R 371.90474/K

[Peterson's 4 Year Colleges](#). 2002.

R 378.73/Peterson's

[Peterson's Competitive Colleges](#). 2002-2003

R 378.73/Peterson's

[World List of Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Education](#). 2000.

R 378.155/World

Junior and Community Colleges

[Community College Directory](#). 1999.

R 378.1543/Community

[Peterson's Two Year Colleges](#). 2003.

R 378.1543/Peterson's

SAT Preparation

[Kaplan SAT & PSAT](#). 2000.

378.1664/SAT

[Master the ACT](#). 2000.

378.1664/Master

[Master the SAT](#). 2002.

378.1662/Master

[Peterson's SAT Success](#). 2000.

378.1662/SAT

Getting In

[College Countdown: The Parent's and Student's Survival Kit for the College Admissions Process](#), by Jill VonGruben. 2000.

378.161/VonGruben

[How to Write a Winning College Application Essay](#), by

Michael James Mason. 2000.

378.1616/Mason

Financial Assistance

[The 2002 Hispanic Scholarship Directory](#). 2002.

R 378.34/Hispanic

[The B Student's \(or Lower\) Complete Scholarship Book](#).

1997.

R 378.34/B

[College Student's Guide to Merit and Other No-Need](#)

[Funding](#), by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. 2000-2002

R 378.34/College

[Complete Scholarship Book](#). 2000.

R 378.34/Complete

[Directory of Financial Aids for Women](#), by Gail Ann Schlachter. 2001-2003.

R 378.3025/Directory

[Financial Aid for African Americans](#), by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. 2001-2003.

R 378.30973/Financial

[Financial Aid for Asian Americans](#), by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. 2001-2003.

R 378.30973/Financial

[Financial Aid for the Disabled and Their Families](#), by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. 2002-2004

R 378.3025/ Financial

[Financial Aid for Native Americans](#), by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. 2001-2003.

R 378.34/Financial

[Financial Aid for Veterans, Military Personnel, and Their Dependents](#), by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. 2000-2002.

R 378.32/Financial

[Peterson's College Money Handbook](#). 2001.

R 378.3/Peterson's

Studies Abroad

[Peterson's Study Abroad](#). 2002.

R 370.196/Peterson's

Independent Studies and Distance Learning

[College Degrees by Mail & Internet](#), by John and Mariah Bear. 2001.

R 374.473/College

[Peterson's Guide to Distance Learning Programs](#). 2003.

R 378.175/Peterson's